

NEW YORK TIMES SOURCE

X-Rays to Paralyze Missiles Reported Developed by Soviet

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (AP) —The magazine U.S. News & World Report said today that the Soviet Union had developed a missile defense that, if as effective as some reports say, could neutralize the United States arsenal of long-range nuclear weapons.

The magazine says the Russians have perfected and tested an antimissile device that uses X-rays generated by a nuclear blast to paralyze or disintegrate incoming missiles "while they are hundreds of miles from their targets."

The article says the present shielding on United States mis-

siles is unable to halt most of the X-rays.

There was no comment from the Defense Department.

The official Pentagon position is that, although there are signs that the Soviet Union is carrying out some limited deployment of antimissile defenses, no country has yet developed a defense fully effective against ballistic missiles.

The magazine article continues:

"Upon penetrating the warhead, they will vaporize wires and 'blind' the guidance system. Moreover, pulsed X-rays produce violent 'boiling' in materials that can disintegrate other vital parts of the warhead."

The magazine says that in one test a single antimissile warhead destroyed two incoming missiles more than 100 miles miles over the Arctic.

The article quotes one Amer-

ican official as saying the breakthrough was ascertained at an international meeting when a Soviet scientist discussed it openly, on the assumption that it was common knowledge.

The magazine, reporting on the reaction of American scientists, says:

"To their horror, they found that the Russians not only had something, and were years ahead in theory, but had already tested it out in space and were starting to build their antimissile system around it."

The magazine says "United States scientists and military men are openly and seriously concerned" and quotes one unidentified American scientist as saying, "We are not certain where we stand—how effective our countermeasures are likely to be."